

Committee Divides Over Dangerous Drugs Control

By VINCENT THOMAS
 Assemblyman, 68th District
 Legal controls over dangerous drugs were recently subject to discussion in both our houses. The Assembly Committee on Criminal Procedure took up a resolution relating to marijuana. Later, the Senate Committee on Judiciary reviewed the necessity for enactment of law to control LSD, a hallucinatory drug which has been arousing much controversy in medical and lay circles.

The marijuana resolution before the Assembly group was intended to put the legislature on record as urging all voters to reject a proposed ballot proposition which would legalize marijuana. The proposition has been given a ballot title by the Secretary of State, but its promoters have until June to secure the necessary signatures.

OPponents of the resolution out-talked its spokesman by arguing that the legislature has already expressed itself by passing the laws which now make sale, possession, or use of marijuana illegal. Members of the Criminal Procedure Committee refused to approve the resolution by a divided vote.

Though the subject has not been put on the agenda for the special session, the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee has already introduced a bill which would impose controls on use of LSD. The Attorney-General supported the idea of the bill at the hearing in a statement saying that the drug is creating a serious problem among young people because they are using it "to escape from the realities and problems of society."

ALSO UPHOLDING the enactment of suitable control le-

Tassels To Mark Seniors

Nineteen North High seniors will wear gold tassels at graduation exercises in June, according to Richard Venturini, sponsor of the school's Scholarship Society.

The gold tassels are awarded to students who earn life membership in the California Scholarship Federation, a statewide organization for outstanding high school scholars. Their diplomas will bear the federation's gold seal.

Saxons who have earned the coveted award include Janice Cohn, Dennis DeLeon, Linda Fais, Scott Hanlon, Janet Hanson, Yvonne Kriens, Patricia Kurashige, John Lemke, Roger Maddafor, and Larry Marrs.

Others who have earned the gold tassels are Warren Nagano, Patrick Reis, Marc Ruth, Stanley Sorenson, Steven Sorenson, Marie Stensbury, Frances Thompson, Michael Waterman, and John Zich.

To attain life membership, students must be members of the Scholarship Society for at least four semesters, including one semester of the senior year, Venturini explained.

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Legislation over LSD was that use of LSD has risen sharply on college and high school campuses in the last three years. They said the drug is readily available in both cities at prices comparable to marijuana. The committee was told that so far as is known, LSD has no therapeutic value. Its use causes temporary distur-

tions of the senses and the mind so acute that behavior cannot be predicted. Persons under its influence cannot be held responsible for their actions.

THE PROPOSED legislation was not without its vigorous opponents. The same spokesmen who argued against the proposed assembly resolution urging voters to reject the ballot proposition to legalize marijuana argued that LSD gives man "one of the greatest chances to expand the boundaries of his mind, his individuality and his culture." A prominent psychiatrist and educator said that use of LSD

is so common among college and high school students that it would be as hard to control as was bathtub gin during Prohibition. From this, he argued that enactment of control legislation would be immoral because it "would make the whole rule of law look silly."

A chemist from the State Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement told the committee that anyone with two years of chemistry could readily make LSD compounds in a bathroom or garage with cheap, readily available materials, and said that even smelling or tasting the drug can produce dangerous hallucinations.

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